

CPYRGHT

### *Shift at State*

From the beginning of his Administration, President Kennedy has had difficulty in finding the right man for the job of Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. With the appointment of Edwin M. Martin, a career official, one hopes that the search is over. Mr. Martin, who has been Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, replaces Robert F. Woodward Jr., who despite the best will was unable to really take hold of the job.

But the appointment of Mr. Martin is bound to puzzle. His reputation in the Department is that of an able technician; he has had little experience in dealing with Latin American problems. What can be said in his favor is that he is skilled in economics and that a good part of his job will be to help get the Alliance for Progress rolling. Additionally, Mr. Martin is steeped in European affairs and can be counted upon for counsel in relating Latin America to the problems of the Common Market.

Still, the administrative end of the Alliance is beset with uncertainties. One of Mr. Martin's deputies is Richard N. Goodwin, who came over to the Department from the White House and who is regarded as a conduit to the President himself. The result is that Latin Americans tend to seek out Mr. Goodwin as much as any of his superiors—a problem that is compounded by the presence of another top official in hemisphere affairs, Teodoro Mayoso, administrator of the Alliance for AID. In sum, Mr. Kennedy has not given plenary authority in hemisphere affairs to any single official; it remains to be seen how well this experiment in collective leadership works out.